

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An aroma dispensing device, comprising:

means for supplying liquid to an electrically conductive outlet;

an electrical discharge means;

means for coupling said outlet to a first potential representing a first low magnitude potential and for directly coupling said electrical discharge means to a second, different, higher magnitude potential for causing an electric field to be generated at said outlet to produce a dispersion of aroma-providing droplets from liquid issuing from the outlet and for producing at said electrical discharge means ions to at least partially electrically discharge the dispersion, wherein said outlet is coupled to said first potential via a resistance.

23. (Original) A device according to claim 22, wherein said coupling means is arranged to couple said outlet to earth.

24. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein said coupling means is arranged to couple said electrical discharge means to a second potential which is positive with respect to said first potential.

25. (Currently Amended) An aroma dispensing device, comprising:

means for supplying liquid to an outlet;

an electrical discharge means;

means for coupling said outlet to a first potential representing electrical earth and for directly coupling said electrical discharge means to a second, different potential for causing an electric field to be generated at said outlet to generate a dispersion of aroma-providing droplets using liquid issuing from the outlet and for producing at said electrical discharge means ions to at least partially electrically discharge the dispersion, wherein said outlet is coupled to said first potential via a resistance.

26. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein said resistance has a value in the range of from approximately 200 Mega Ohms to approximately 500 Mega Ohms.

27. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein said resistance has a value of approximately 500 Mega Ohms.

28. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein said resistance is provided by liquid in the liquid supplying means.

29. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein the electrical discharge means surround or are provided on either side of the liquid outlet.

30. (Withdrawn) An aroma dispensing device, comprising:
means for supplying liquid to an outlet;
an electrical discharge means;

means for coupling one of said outlet and said electrical discharge means to a first potential and for coupling the other of said outlet and said electrical discharge means to a second, different potential for causing an electric field to be generated at said outlet to generate a dispersion of aroma-providing droplets using liquid issuing from the outlet and for producing at said electrical discharge means ions to at least partially electrically discharge the dispersion, wherein an attractor is provided for attracting ions generated by the electrical discharge means to facilitate directing of the dispersion towards a target location.

31. (Withdrawn) An aroma dispensing device, comprising a housing having an outlet and containing:
means for supplying liquid to a liquid outlet,
an electrical discharge means,
means for coupling one of said outlet and said electrical discharge means

to a first potential and for coupling the other of said outlet and said electrical discharge means to a second, different, potential for causing an electric field to be generated at said outlet to generate a dispersion of aroma-providing droplets using liquid issuing from the outlet and for producing at said electrical discharge means ions to at least partially electrically discharge the dispersion, wherein at least a portion of the housing surrounding the housing outlet is electrically conductive, said electrical discharge means is positioned adjacent the housing outlet and said coupling means is arranged to couple the electrically conductive housing portion to a further potential so as to facilitate passage of at least partially electrically discharged droplets through the housing outlet.

32. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 31, wherein the housing outlet is circular and is provided in a side wall of the housing, the electrical discharge means has a discharge point located, in use, slightly below a lowermost part of the housing outlet and the liquid outlet is or is approximately level with an uppermost part of the housing outlet in use.

33. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 31, wherein the electrical discharge means is arranged so as to point towards the liquid outlet.

34. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 31, wherein the coupling means is arranged to couple one of said outlet and said electrical discharge means to a positive potential, the other of said outlet and said electrical discharge means to a negative potential and the attractor or housing position to electrical earth.

35. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein the resistance couples the outlet to the first potential.

36. (Original) A device according to claim 35, wherein the resistance comprises a liquid path.

37. (Previously presented) A device according claim 35, wherein the resistance is approximately 500 Mega ohms.

38. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 1, further comprising valve means for closing the liquid outlet.

39. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 38 wherein the valve means is electrically operable.

40. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 38 wherein the valve means comprises a piezoelectric actuator.

41. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 1, comprising electric field generating means for generating an electric field to cause liquid to withdraw from the liquid outlet to the liquid supplying means.

42. (Withdrawn) An aroma dispensing device, comprising:
means for supplying liquid to an outlet;

an electrical discharge means;

means for coupling one of said outlet and said electrical discharge means to a first potential and for coupling the other of said outlet and said electrical discharge means to a second, different, potential for causing an electric field to be generated at said outlet to generate a dispersion of aroma-providing droplets using liquid issuing from the outlet and for producing at said electrical discharge means ions to at least partially electrically discharge the dispersion, wherein electric field generating means are provided for causing liquid to be drawn into the liquid supply means away from the outlet when said outlet and electrical discharge means are not coupled to the coupling means.

43. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, comprising control means for enabling the device to be activated in a predetermined manner which may be at a predetermined time, periodically or at a user settable time or times or a combination of the aforementioned possibilities.

44. (Withdrawn) A dispensing device comprising means for supplying a liquid to an outlet; comminution means for subjecting liquid issuing from the outlet to an electric field sufficient to cause comminution of the liquid; and means for activating the liquid supplying and comminution means at a predetermined time or times.

45. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 44, comprising user operable means for controlling or adjusting the time or times at which the activation means is arranged to activate the liquid supplying and comminution means.

46. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 43, comprising a plurality of supplies of different liquids and means for controlling the generation of an electric field to cause comminution of each of the different liquids at different times.

47-48 (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein the resistance is greater than 0 ohms.

50. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein the resistance is a variable resistance.

51. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 50, wherein the resistance varies from greater than 0 ohms to 500 Mega Ohms.

52. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein the resistance comprises a liquid in combination with a resistor.

53. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 52, wherein the resistance is variable.

54. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, comprising a plurality of outlets and a plurality of supplies of different liquids.

55. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 54, comprising means for controlling comminution of each of the different liquids at desired times.
56. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein said liquid supply means comprises a flexible reservoir.
57. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein said liquid supply means comprises a reservoir including a frangible seal.
58. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, further comprising a barcode reader.
59. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, further comprising a receiver to receive control signals from one or more of a personal computer, a video or DVD player, a CD or cassette player, a television and a cinema projector.
60. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22 in combination with a motor vehicle.
61. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22 in combination with one of a radio, a telephone and a cable of a home entertainment item.
62. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22, wherein the device is capable of being sat on a tabletop.
63. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22, wherein the device is capable of being carried about a person.
64. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22, wherein the device includes a liquid containing at least one of an insect attractant and an insecticide.
65. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22, wherein the device includes a liquid containing an insect repellant.

66. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22, wherein the device includes a liquid comprising an olfactory suppressant.

67. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 22, wherein the device includes a liquid comprising an olfactory stimulus.